

CITY ITEMS

THE COUNCIL.—By some unaccountable accident, our report of last night's proceedings of the Board of Aldermen failed to reach us. We understand that nothing of importance transpired, the session being mainly for the purpose of acting upon some of the doings of the Assistants. The nomination of Matsell was not spoken of, his friends were absent, with one or two exceptions. The Board, as we understand, adjourned until the first Monday in September.

are about and every attempt to colonize them must be a failure. Free settlers of small means always seek the healthy upland, where the forest growths are less heavy and luxuriant, and where the soil can more easily and cheaply be brought into tillage. If Louisiana has such lands, she would do well to throw them open to the landless, limiting the quantity each family can acquire, to say 160 acres. But to throw open her swamp and prairie lands would amount to nothing, at present at least, while the result would be pointed at as a failure of the principles of land reform.

To enable them to judge of the working of the tariff of 1842, it would be necessary to exhibit the movement of that year itself, that it might be compared with 1846 or 1847, as is here done with 1846, that it may be compared with 1850; but 1842, as is here shown, is carefully excluded. Its amount was 293,177 tons, and 1846 having been 628,454, we have an increase in the five years from 1842 to 1847, both inclusive, of nearly one hundred and ten per cent., and that increase perfectly regular, each and every year being higher than its predecessor, thus:

Year.	Tons-Year	Tons.
1842	293,177	416,627
1843	336,140	628,454
1844	378,714	

Going from Tide Water.	
Purchased with the crop of 1835	117,884
Purchased with the crop of 1836	88,494
Purchased with the crop of 1837	117,240
Purchased with the crop of 1838	194,575
Purchased with the crop of 1839	303,060
Purchased with the crop of 1840	132,814
Purchased with the crop of 1841	94,212

In this period there had been an increase of twenty per cent. in the population of the whole country, and a much larger increase in that of the States which used this canal, and yet the merchandise going from tide-water was twenty per cent. less in the last year than in the first one. What was the progress under the tariff of 1842 is here shown.

Purchased with the crop of 1842.....	113,686
Purchased with the crop of 1843.....	113,686
Purchased with the crop of 1844.....	114,742
Purchased with the crop of 1845.....	163,121
Purchased with the crop of 1846.....	210,185

The first period was one in which we were buying goods on credit, and there was then, as now, every reason to believe that, with the decline of credit, the power of purchase would pass away—and such proved to be the case. The second was one in which we were paying off back interest and back debts, and to accomplish that object required very many millions that would otherwise have been applied to the purchase of merchandise for consumption; and yet the

quantity sent West in 1846 was almost fifty per cent. greater than was purchased by the crops of 1840 and 1841—and the purchases made with the crop of 1846 were more than double those made with the crop of 1841. Trade, therefore, grew steadily with protection, as it had declined under *British* Free Trade.

We invite our friends of *The Journal of Commerce* and of *The Post.*, to explain why it was that trade was so small in the free trade times of 1840 and 1841—why it was that it was no greater in 1842 than it had been seven years before—and why it was that the crop of 1845 purchased about fifty per cent. more than that of 1842.

Land Reform in Louisiana.
The Orleansian, an independent daily paper, published in French and English at New-Orleans, advocates the gratuitous cession to each actual settler of 160 acres of the low lands of that State lying along the Mississippi River, and on the Gulf, for the following reasons:

- 1st. It will increase the population of the State more rapidly.
- 2d. It will cause the low prairie lands on the borders of our lakes, lagoons, bayous and the Gulf, to be improved and settled by a white population, so necessary to guard and protect our coast in case of war.
- 3d. It will increase the population and taxable property of the State, and consequently increase its business and revenue.
- 4th. It will correspond to homes and profitable

6th. The swamp and prairie lands on each side of the Mississippi River would be sooner occupied, and the lands would consequently be more persons interested in keeping the levees of the Mississippi River in good repair, and more money, with lighter taxation, could be raised to do it with.

7th. The lands would be granted to actual settlers free of charge, their settlement would commence immediately and as they were settled and improved a value would be created in the low lands of from fifty to fifty dollars per acre, and in the high lands of from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars, and in fact all the landed property of the State, even in the cities.

8th. And last, but not least, the population of Louisiana would soon become sufficiently thick to admit of schools being established and supported in all parts of the State, so that all the white children of the State, rich or poor, could be educated, which cannot be done at present, because in many parts the population is so much in favor of land reform.

We are much in favor of land reclamation as anybody, but we doubt whether the measure would attain the end proposed in the present instance. The parties first to be benefited by it and induced to settle upon the soil, are of course those who have not the capital to buy land at the current rates, and to such persons the grant of tracts of swamp land would not be of the slightest use. That sort of land, though the richest and most productive after it has